

AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WINFIELD DUNN ADMINISTRATION  
INTERVIEW WITH  
JAMES E. McGEHEE BY MICHAEL MEIER  
TRANSCRIBER - BETTY WILLIAMS

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AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WINFIELD DUNN ADMINISTRATION

INTERVIEW WITH JAMES E. MCGEHEE

JUNE 10, 1977

BY MICHAEL MEIER

TRANSCRIBED - BETTY WILLIAMS

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PLACE

Memphis, Tenn.

DATE

June 10, 1972  
(Interviewee)  
(For the Mississippi Valley Archives  
of the John Willard Brister Library  
of Memphis State University)



THIS IS THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY.  
THIS PROJECT IS "AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WINFIELD DUNN CAMPAIGN AND  
ADMINISTRATION." THE DATE IS JUNE 10, 1977 AND THE PLACE IS MEMPHIS  
TENNESSEE. THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MR. JAMES E. MCGEHEE. THE INTERVIEW  
IS BY MICHAEL MEIER OF THE ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE AT MEMPHIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY. TRANSCRIBED BY MRS. BETTY WILLIAMS.

MR. MEIER: Mr. McGehee, by way of introduction could  
you give us some biographical information,  
that is, where you were born, educated, and when you began your career  
and when you first met Winfield Dunn particularly?

MR. MCGEHEE: Certainly Mike. I am a native Memphian,  
having been born and reared here. I was  
born here in August of 1929. I am 47 years old. My basic education was  
here in the public school system and later at Christian Brothers High  
School, which was then called Christian Brothers College. It was before  
the actual college was formed, when the college [high school] was on  
Parkway. I took my B.A. degree at the University of Virginia at Charlottes-  
ville graduating in 1951 and went straight into the United States Navy as  
a line officer where I served four years in the Pacific. Then returned



to Memphis to join McGehee Mortgage Company--my father's mortgage firm and since have pursued various graduate degrees primarily at the University of Northwestern.

MR. MEIER: And had you met Winfield Dunn before you entered your career?

MR. MCGEHEE: Oh yes. I had known Winfield for most of my adult life, but primarily through his participation in Republican Party politics. Coincidentally, he was my family's dentist, once he began his practice. (Laughter)

MR. MEIER: Which was when?

MR. MCGEHEE: I'm not sure when Winfield started his practice. His father-in-law, Dr. Pritchard, was a very popular dentist with all of us here in Memphis. I really sort of moved from Dr. Pritchard to Winfield.

MR. MEIER: Well, that's good. Now Mr. McGehee, have you always been interested in politics?

MR. MCGEHEE: I can't say always, Mike. I have been interested in politics since my early adulthood.

I began to realize that all the grandiose plans and schemes of individuals come to naught except that they are implemented through the political process. It's a pretty cold hard fact in American life that politics is where the power and muscle is. That's where things happen and that's where the country and our lifestyle are really run from and formulated.

MR. MEIER: Well now as far as the Dunn campaign is con-





cerned Mr. McGehee, did Governor Dunn have an influence in drawing you into his campaign?

MR. MCGEHEE: Yes, very much. Well before it became public knowledge of his intention to run. I was one of four people at a small meeting at Winfield's home. We met there I believe, in February and present were Winfield, as host, myself, Harry Wellford and Alex Dan. The purpose of the meeting was for Winfield just to bounce off of us his thought which at that time he had discussed with no one else of making a run for governor.

MR. MEIER: How long do you think this thought had been in his mind?

MR. MCGEHEE: I think the thought had been in his mind for a long time. It is my personal observation and in no wise critical of Winfield that Winfield was becoming restless. Winfield was possessed of a brilliant and fertile mind and he had a keen interest in people and politics. And I think Winfield in his own way and in his own time had come to the same conclusion about politics and its power base as I had. I think looking down somebody's mouth all day every day was not really fulfilling nor challenging Winfield anymore. Although I can show you some mighty beautiful work that he is capable of as a perfectionist. And that was why I liked him as a dentist. (Laughter) Because until it was perfect and fit just right he wouldn't leave the inlay of the tooth alone.

But I think the fact that, for instance, had an interest in flying



and was taking flying lessons. Winfield is the sort of person who will never quit growing as a person. Almost irrespective of what he is in terms of vocation. A part of Winfield's avocation is going to insure his continued growth as a person.

MR. MEIER: But at this meeting, Mr. McGehee, did Governor Dunn express anything to you.

A man doesn't leave the dentistry and run for governor. He was in the Republican county structure here I know that.

MR. MCGEHEE: He had recently completed some two years as chairman of the Republican Party for Shelby County. Because of his long involvement in the Republican Party politics had come to know his counterparts throughout the rest of the state--other county chairmen. And Winfield expressed to us on this February evening as I can best recall his desire to make a contribution and he felt like he could make a more significant contribution through the state for Tennesseans as governor than he could in D.C. as either a congressman or a senator. I think he is still of that opinion.

MR. MEIER: Yes, I have heard that also. That is a general consensus. Mr. McGehee, let's talk about you for a few moments. What were your duties in the primary?

MR. MCGEHEE: My duties in the primary were to be the "no tickee, no washee guy." In other words, sure I'll be happy to. Once it became obvious that Winfield Dunn was serious and particularly since Harry Wellford responded favorably to



Winfield's inclinations, I felt better and better about it. I frankly thought early on that Winfield was going to have a very difficult time primarily because he was from West Tennessee. And West Tennessee had not had a Republican governor in fifty years. But Harry Wellford is a consummate student of the political process. He was very knowledgeable. I say, was, because Harry is now a federal judge and sort of out of it and he will never again participate in partisan politics. We all respected Harry, and his opinion and his judgement. Harry thought well of it. He was supportive of Winfield's idea.

My responsibilities were the mechanical implementation of an accord that Winfield and I struck early on. Winfield said that he and Harry needed somebody to whom they could turn over all monies who would properly account for those monies and assure that no monies were paid out except that we did indeed owe the money. More or less in the capacity of treasurer which I think was my official title. I had told Winfield that I would serve him in that capacity, but that I had a condition, or really two conditions, both of which he exceeded to. The first was that I would be the only authorized signature. That nobody else could draw upon our funds because I have had enough insight into and participation in campaigns to know that at the eleventh hour people get wreckless. And if we'll just spend another \$50,000 we can win, but you don't have the fifty, but they go on and spend it. I told Winfield that I did not want to see him as a possible loser which at that point was a clear and present danger going around his hometown as a defeated candidate and asking people to





feed hay to a dead horse. People are extremely reluctant to help a loser with his deficit. It's the hardest kind of fund raising in American politics. I didn't want to see Winfield personally and financially responsible for any massive deficits, win, lose or draw. So I told him as treasurer if we didn't have the money, we weren't going to buy anything--billboards, TV time, etc. I did commit a few acts of faith along the way.

MR. MEIER: A few acts of faith?

MR. MCGEHEE: Well, as Winfield's charismatic personality began to do its thing and many parts of the campaign carefully orchestrated by Harry Wellford began to fall in place like to the tremendous care and thought that went into the musical jingle that was so popular that the people were singing it around the state. This is in the general election when he was running against Hooker. I began to see that we were going to have an easier time of financing so my reference to an act of faith was I think, almost unbeknownst to anybody at the time, I would authorize expenditures in anticipation of funds that I was confident would be forthcoming.

MR. MEIER: Oh yes, I see. That explains that last statement. You were state treasurer during the primary and the general election?

MR. MCGEHEE: Yes, that is correct.

MR. MEIER: How were you recruited for this, Mr.

McGehee? You mentioned a meeting, a few minutes ago. Did Governor Dunn have you slated for this position originally?



Or how were you recruited?

MR. MCGEHEE: Yes, Winfield, I think, saw me in this role as he began in his own mind to formulate his campaign. My participation in the initial meeting though was as a close friend and neighbor to Winfield's to react to his thought which was totally new, I think, to all of us. He possibly discussed it with Harry before, but it was certainly new to me and I believe it was new to Alex.

MR. MEIER: Let's talk about raising money for Winfield. This is obviously where your area of expertise lies. Now as state treasurer, when the Dunn people went out to raise money, did they depend on a small group of contributors or was this a blanket campaign?

MR. MCGEHEE: Well, Mike, I really need to answer your question as between primary and as between general. The primary campaign was managed and orchestrated by Harry Wellford as campaign manager. I recommended that a small group of us as friends of Winfield create some seed money by going to the bank and borrowing \$20,000 on a note which all of us would sign. With the understanding among the group that the first \$20,000 that came in went to pay the bank back because we would have used the proceeds from the bank loan from the first \$20,000 of expenses. So it got us over the early and difficult hurdle of getting any real money in the pot to let Winfield go do this in other parts of the state. Here are my thoughts and what are your



reactions. I think that proved to be a good decision because the availability of that \$20,000 let him concentrate on that at which he was so masterful and that was selling himself to people. And as he toured the state the reaction that he got from party worker friends and Republican officials throughout the state was overwhelmingly favorable.

MR. MEIER: Mr. McGehee, your office and responsibilities were state-wide then?

MR. MCGEHEE: Correct.

MR. MEIER: Where did you and in what part of the state did you spend the most money? Did you have a concentrated area with a concerted effort?

MR. MCGEHEE: Basically, I did not participate too much in the various strategy meetings. My area of responsibility exclusively was finance and fiscal responsibility. The basic and maybe oversimplified strategy as I understood it was that Winfield would draw upon the Republican concentration in East Tennessee and his friends there. He would give that up coming through the middle part of the state which was traditionally Democratic. And hopefully, when he got home to big Shelby he would be no worse than even and would have an overwhelming advantage in Shelby County. Now that strategy obviously was the general election because in the primary we had Mr. Maxey Jarman of Genesco in Nashville to contend with. Mr. Jarman was a man of very substantial means and personal financial wealth and he did not have any of the constraints that we felt in terms of lack of funds to do the





things we would have liked to do but couldn't afford to do.

MR. MEIER: Yes, Maxey Jarman is a wealthy man.

MR. MCGEHEE: Very wealthy.

MR. MEIER: I'd like for you to reflect on this a moment if you would Mr. McGehee. What particular difficulties do you recall that you had? Some things must stand out that gave you bad days.

MR. MCGEHEE: Well, I think the obvious. I think the early days of the primary Winfield Dunn was little known to the people of Tennessee and to many of the Republicans for that matter in Tennessee. Here again, I believe it was the fertile mind of Harry Wellford that decided to turn a lemon into a lemonade and so I believe I am correct that Harry conceived the idea of the "Winfield Who" buttons.

MR. MEIER: I see.

MR. MCGEHEE: Which capitalized on the fact that Winfield was unknown. We took the usual tours to the concentrations of population which are Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville and attempted there to get businessmen in and involved in Winfield's candidacy because for so long we had had a leap-frog government as between the two governors, Clement and Ellington. We were trying to sell businessmen on Winfield and on the fact that as a businessman Winfield would be sympathetic to the problems of businessmen and bankers of Tennessee.

MR. MEIER: Did you bring up the fact that he would be

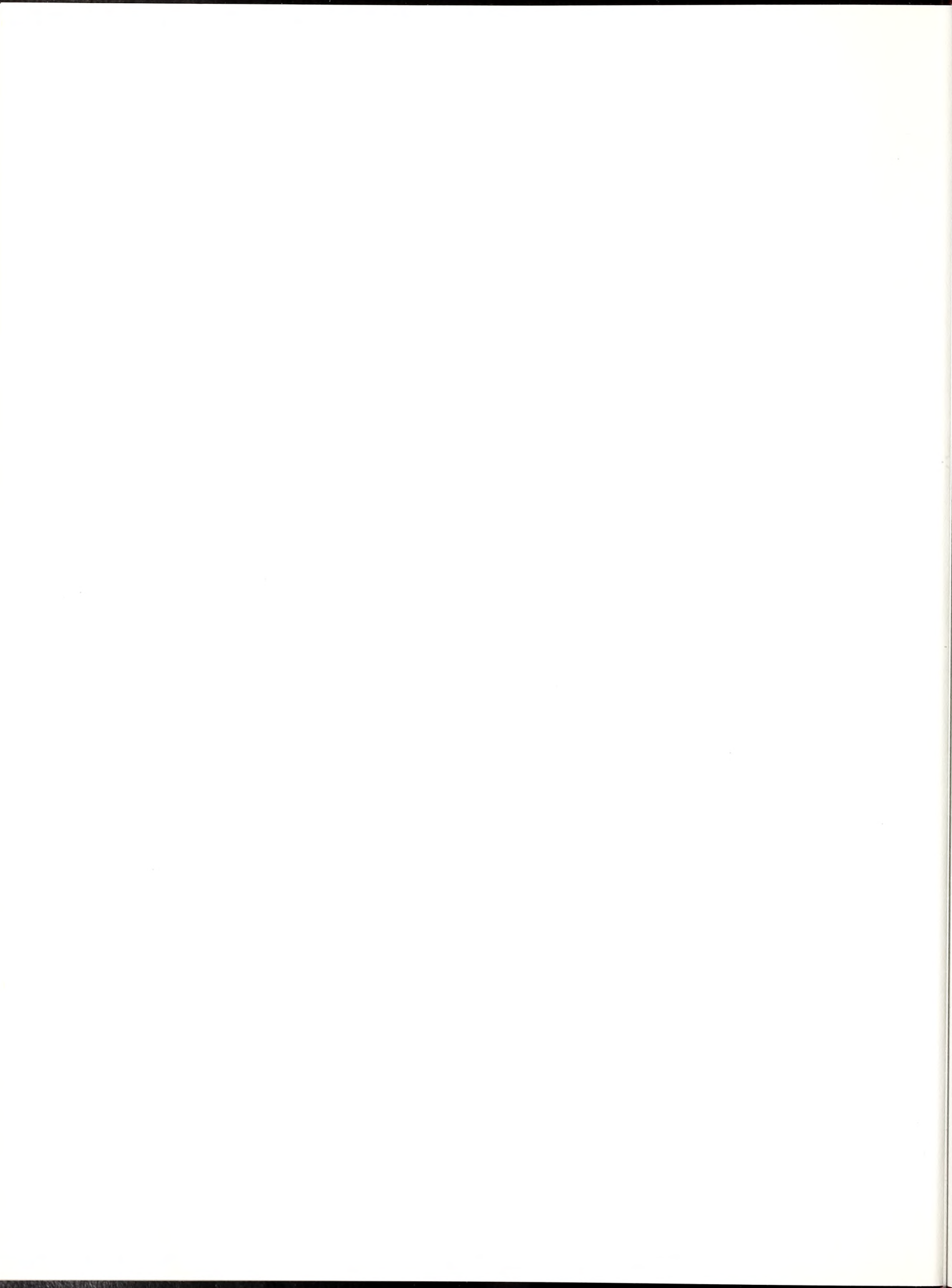


a Republican in 1970 and that the state perhaps needed a second party.

MR. MCGEHEE: Well, I think Winfield's timing was exquisite. There was an increasing dissatisfaction among Democrats of a conservative political persuasion even with their own party. The prospects for a next governor were obviously not to their liking because the clear candidate on the Democratic side was going to be John J. Hooker, as indeed it was. This prospect was alarming to the conservatives, business, fiscal or otherwise in Tennessee because Hooker was identified very closely with the Kennedy clan and had just made something of a debacle of one of his business adventures that had just gone into receivership or bankruptcy. So the prospects of John J. Hooker as a governor was frightening.

The problem though was that Winfield was not well enough known to be considered as the better alternative. You asked the questions of the problems. Problems which took the form of financial difficulties was getting Winfield known. We figured that the best thing we had in terms of PR with Winfield was Winfield. Anytime you could get fifty businessmen together for a luncheon and let Winfield talk for 10 or 12 minutes and answer questions for 5 or 8 minutes you had sold every businessman in that room. Because the one thing that Winfield has always been able to do superbly is to sell Winfield.

MR. MEIER: That's an interesting technique. Do you recall any more techniques that the



organization used?

MR. MCGEHEE:

We knew that we had to get Winfield to other parts of the state. We reasoned that if Winfield could not take his hometown for granted then we couldn't win anyhow. And he had a strong following here. He had been a very substantial contributor to the Republican Party and its growth in Shelby County. And he had collected, if you will, a lot of I.O.U.'s People were delighted at the prospects of having a Memphis governor. So the logic was again probably oversimplified--get Winfield to the people in the other parts of the state, as many businessmen as possible but also teas and coffees and people who knew Winfield who would have a party in their back yard for fifty neighbors. Those fifty people got to meet and hear and ask questions of Winfield and they would tell their neighbors so the next time Winfield came through the neighbors would come. The whole thing just grew from those early formative tentative sort of starts, but that is when the finances were most difficult. Once we exhausted the initial \$20,000 it was mighty slow going.

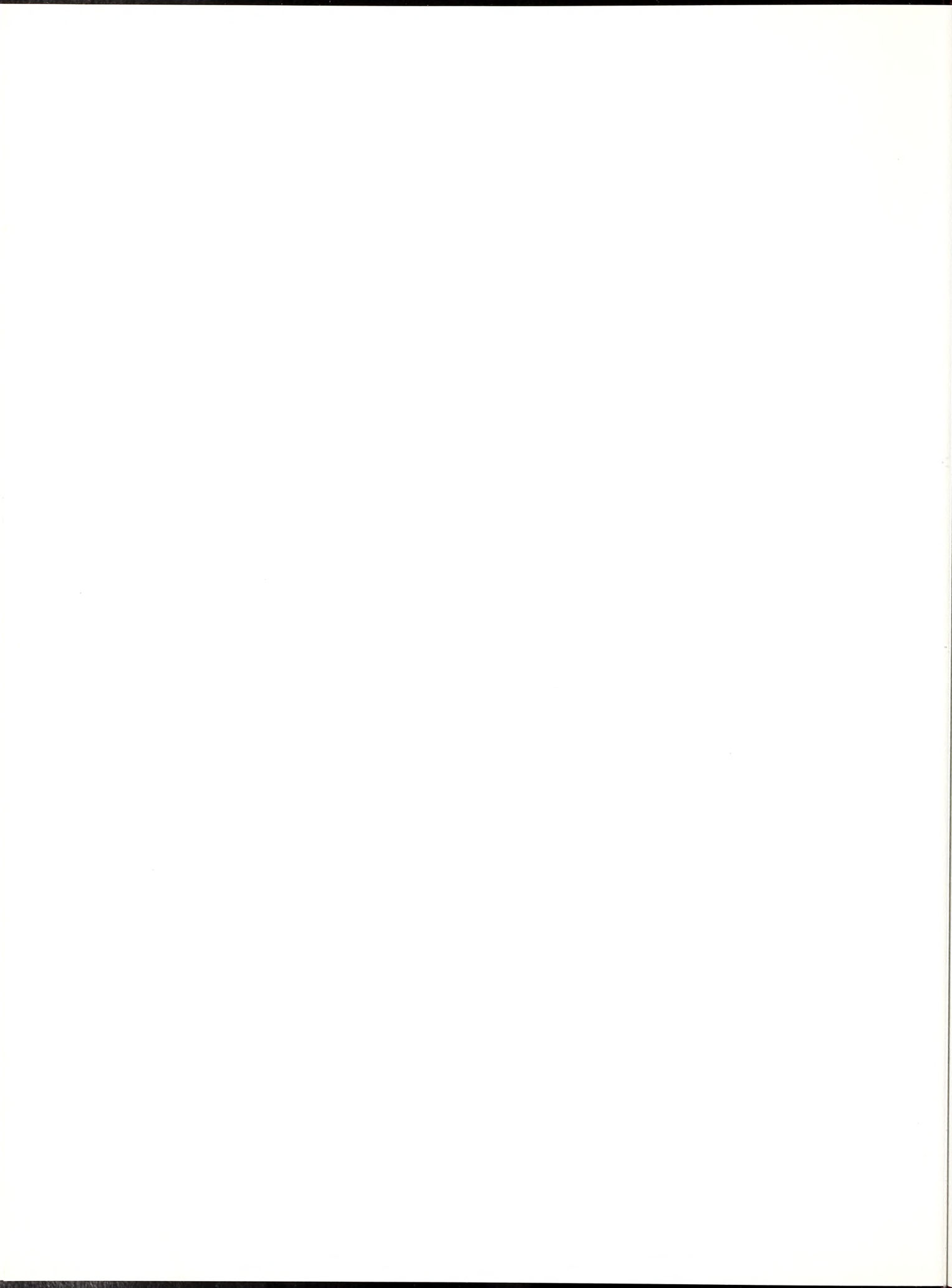
MR. MEIER:

This is the well-known grassroots campaign.

Everyone I have talked to has talked about Governor Dunn's grassroots campaign. Mr. McGehee, I don't mean this disrespectfully of course, I suppose it is public record, but approximately how much money do you think the Dunn campaign spent?

MR. MCGEHEE:

Mike, I am trying to remember. I don't want to guess and terribly misleading.





Those records have long since been transferred to Winfield. As a matter of fact, they were transferred to Winfield when he became governor because he wanted to know who his contributors were and where they were from and in what amounts they contributed. It became a very good list for him to draw upon.

MR. MEIER: Yes.

MR. MCGEHEE: Except that I write things down and preserve them, I do not have good recall. I do not [know]. I am not being evasive. It is public record. We had to file the appropriate filings with the Secretary of State and it is a matter of public record. I recall though in hearing some of the recent campaign figures from Baker and Brock and others that it seemed like an awfully small amount by comparison.

MR. MEIER: Mr. McGehee, we've already established the fact that Governor Dunn was a dentist and he was unknown virtually outside of Shelby County. He was not the traditional lawyer-politician syndrome that he have. Because he was a dentist did you find that as a handicap?

MR. MCGEHEE: Yes, indeed! I think maybe one of the hardest things to overcome was the fact that he was a dentist. People would say, "Well, what the hell does a dentist know about running the state?" (Laughter) But you had only to get with Winfield to see that his knowledge and his basic business judgement was far broader than the operation and ownership of a very



successful dental practice in Memphis, Tennessee. Winfield had been in on some other business ventures that I was privy to and knew of and had some real estate investments and his broad knowledge of the American economy, the needs of Tennessee, how they could be addressed and resolved in time, the new directions in which we had to take the state. All Winfield needed in any forum was an opportunity to present himself and his views. Yes, very definitely the fact that he was a Memphis dentist was a very serious handicap.

MR. MEIER: At least at first?

MR. MCGEHEE: At least at first.

MR. MEIER: Mr. McGehee, he was the first Republican governor in fifty years. Alfred Taylor was elected in 1920 and some argue that Mr. Taylor came in on Warren Harding's coattails. Now, if I were on the Republican National Committee that would tend to excite me--the fact that we have the possibility of not only a Republican governor in Tennessee but a Republican senator. Bill Brock was running in 1970 also. Now, as state treasurer, what type of aid, if any, did the Republican National Committee send you?

MR. MCGEHEE: Very little. The Republican National Committee at that time was having its own problems. And we were just beginning in Tennessee the ascendancy of the Republican Party which peaked with us having the governor, both senators and five of eight congressmen, but that all came later.

Well, I shouldn't say later because Brock and Dunn were elected simultaneously. I think, and I don't say this critically, the Republican



National Committee thought it would be more valuable to have a Republican senator in the United States Congress than a Republican governor. So their primary focus was on Brock's campaign.

Brock was elected largely because of Winfield. I was standing beside Winfield in the Nashville airport while he was talking to Bill Brock and heard Bill Brock say, "Those coattails were certainly broad and I was not too proud to ride them." Now he was referring to the fact that his victory became concrete and fait accompli in Shelby because as the polls were closing across the state and we were progressing westwardly, Brock was not doing as well as Winfield. And Winfield's universal popularity in Shelby County just washed Bill Brock right over Albert Gore.

MR. MEIER: That is interesting. That is the first time I have ever heard that point of view.

MR. MCGEHEE: That was an actual statement of Bill Brock's to Winfield.

MR. MEIER: How about that! But the Republican National Committee per se didn't send you any aid that you can recall?

MR. MCGEHEE: Not that I can recall and if they did it would have been rather insignificant. In the latter stages of the campaign I really began to have a rather unique problem and that was to carefully scrutinize the money that was being thrust at me. Some checks we returned.

MR. MEIER: Is that right?



MR. MCGEHEE: Yes. Because they were from personal interest groups that Winfield did not want to beholden to. The whole guts and support of his campaign was a lot of raindrops fill up the bucket--small contributions from people at the grassroots level. Oh we had some substantial contributions but I think Winfield's campaign and his financial support was as broad based as any governor of Tennessee has ever enjoyed.

MR. MEIER: That is interesting. Let's talk about the primary here a moment and about his opponents. He had three opponents in the primary. There was Bill Jenkins, of course, Claude Robertson, and Maxey Jarman who everyone agrees was the most formidable. From your point of view what made Governor Dunn victorious over these three opponents? What do you think were the qualities that got him across?

MR. MCGEHEE: His personal magnetism, his new ideas about Tennessee, its needs and how they could be addressed, and his age. Maxey Jarman might have beaten Winfield except Winfield was able to convince people that the needs of Tennessee required a youthful man of vigor who could come early and stay late at the Governor's office. I don't recall the precise age of Mr. Jarman at that time, but he was a senior citizen. I believe he was in his late fifties or early sixties and if he had not already retired he was nearing retirement.

MR. MEIER: How about Mr. Robertson and Mr. Jenkins?





What were the differences there?

MR. MCGEHEE:

I think that primarily those two gentlemen thought they would test the water and see how it went. I don't think either of them had any real serious hopes of emerging as the Republican candidate. They knew that Winfield would deny them any support from Shelby. It was a question of who would do the best in Republican East Tennessee. Here again, Winfield was at least on a par with those two gentlemen, Jenkins, and Robertson, as a result of his participation in Republican politics. He had just as many friends and contacts throughout the state as they did. Plus the fact that he sat on Shelby County. Neither of them had a base equivalent to Shelby County.

MR. MEIER:

Big Shelby.

MR. MCGEHEE:

Big Shelby. Well, I think most people in either party will tell you that if you aspire to statewide office in Tennessee you have got to somehow arrange to carry Shelby [County].

MR. MEIER:

Yes, that has been the way it has been for decades, I suppose.

MR. MCGEHEE:

Well, it was one of the essential parts of the power base for Mr. Crump.

MR. MEIER:

Yes, definitely.

MR. MCGEHEE:

He could deliver Shelby County to whomever he wanted to favor with that vote.



MR. MEIER: Yes, definitely. Now, Mr. McGehee, let's move to the general election here and talk about the contest between Mr. Hooker and Governor Dunn. Here again, we have a predominantly Democratic state in the solid south and the solid south is beginning to crumble as we see in 1970, but it is still a Democratic state. Here again, the same question, what were the differences that made Governor Dunn victorious over his Democratic opponents, do you think?

MR. MCGEHEE: Image. Winfield was perceived to have been very much a self-made man. He came from parents of modest essentially rural background. His father, of course as you know, had had some political experience.

MR. MEIER: Yes.

MR. MCGEHEE: But Winfield put himself through dental school and built his own practice and was a person who knew where a dollar came from. Winfield was perceived to be middle America. He was handsome, impeccably honest and had a freshness and vigor about him--his bearing, his countenance, his delivery, his manner and his speech--were such a refreshing contrast to Hooker, all due respect to John J., whom I know personally. John J. who was perceived to be rich, spoiled, liberal, very much of the Kennedy ilk, was obviously attempting to rely heavily upon the black vote which in the South threatens some people--a candidate whose basic support is black. And the contrast was overwhelmingly favorable for Winfield. Plus the fact, and



I maybe should emphasize this, that John J. had just experienced a serious financial difficulty through a corporation that he headed and the buck stops with the chief executive officer which he was. That business failure or that problem with that particular corporation led people to ask which was more or less the counter question, "What does a dentist know about running the state?" Speaking of John J., "If this man cannot run his own business, if he is unable to successfully run a business, how does he presume to think he can run the state?"

MR. MEIER: Do you think this was a major element?

MR. MCGEHEE: I think this was a major element in terms of the business and the financial community in Tennessee.

MR. MEIER: I see. Just theorizing a moment, how do you think the mass of Tennesseans felt about John J. Hooker himself?

MR. MCGEHEE: I think they were afraid of John J. Kennedy did not carry Tennessee. I think speculation will rage forever among historians about what sort of a president Kennedy would have been!

MR. MEIER: I would agree with that.

MR. MCGEHEE: And where his liberalism--super liberalism--would have taken the country. We'll never know. But people now, particularly as a result of media, are more knowledgeable about basic economics, about inflation, about deficit finance and



what it does. But even then during this campaign people had an instinctive fear of a person whom they perceived to be super-liberal. I should say Tennesseans. Because Tennessee even though the pendulum has swung back to the Democratic side, Tennessee is still essentially a conservative-oriented political environment.

MR. MEIER: Mr. McGehee, looking back on this for a moment, what changes did you hope to see from the Dunn Administration?

MR. MCGEHEE: Winfield had an extremely keen interest in education. He thought that the educational opportunities or advantages, if you prefer, should be improved throughout all of Tennessee. He had some very solid ideas. During the campaign [he] issued white papers, position papers on his thoughts particularly on education. And during his governorship he started the kindergarten program to give children at an earlier and a more formulative age which child behaviorists have since sustained as the most critical time in the formative part of the child's life.

We knew Winfield would be totally responsible financially and we knew that he would bring good honest fiscally responsible people to government. And he did. He attracted some top people to government. I think the history books will be very kind to Winfield because I think as a result of his industry and creativity, even with the Democratic House and Senate Winfield was able to get an amazing amount done in one brief short term. I think this is very much to his credit because even the Democratic lead-





ship perceived him to be conscientious and sincere and dedicated and knowing that he could not succeed himself.

Winfield brought a quality to the governor's mansion that had not been there in my lifetime in any significant degree--and that was statesmanship. When you look at Winfield's youth and realize that in the four brief quick years he was Chairman of the Republican Governors, he was Chairman of the Tom Bigbee Waterways Commission, he was selected by the President to be the Goodwill Ambassador and take that trip to Japan. From a relatively unknown Memphis dentist to this sort of peer group acceptance in the brief span fleeting flash in the long spectrum of time in a four-year governorship to be able to emerge so quickly as a leader among the Rockefellers and the Reagans and the other governors is proof of the quality of the man. It doesn't take you long to get the measure of Winfield.

MR. MEIER:

Along this line, Mr. McGehee, about changes

in the administration, I want to try and get back to the point of changes and issues, I want to jar your memory a minute. Were there any issues about which you felt strongly that you can remember?

MR. MCGEHEE:

Not really Mike. As the campaign progressed

I had to just become totally consumed and preoccupied with the bill paying which was statewide. Here again, all monies flowed to me here in Memphis. I in turn paid bills statewide. It became a fulltime job to insure that the monies were going when needed to where needed. This was particularly true of the Nashville firm that



had been hired to do Winfield's PR. We had a very carefully monitored budget. I was in touch with them or up in Nashville several times a week because, as you know in campaigns, you can't wait until the eleventh hour to book TV time, to book billboards. And my earlier reference to acts of faith were through this ad agency. I told them to go on and book those billboards because I could see this swell of momentum that was beginning to build and I could see it in the money that was coming in.

MR. MEIER: How about during the administration, Mr. McGehee, those issues that cropped up-- the kindergarten issue you have mentioned, and the regional prison system that Governor Dunn wanted implemented, education and this kind of thing. Were you satisfied with the way they were resolved?

MR. MCGEHEE: Yes, I was. I think considering that Winfield was a Republican governor with a Democratic House and Senate he did the best possible job and as good a job as could possibly be done in fulfilling his campaign promises to address those areas of need.

MR. MEIER: Well, now I would like for you to reflect one more time, Mr. McGehee, and this is in conclusion. What else would you like to say about the Winfield Dunn campaign, administration and instead about the governor himself if you wish?

MR. MCGEHEE: I say this, Mike, with a great deal of personal prejudice and I am sure you appreciate that Winfield and I were dear personal friends long before this ever



came into his mind. To me it removed a great deal of my cynicism about the American political process because a relatively obscure Memphis dentist who was honest, and God-fearing, and forthright and courageous was willing to sacrifice a great deal. I know as a dear personal friend of Winfield's he honored me with his home loan when [I] bought his loan. I know the the reduction in income that he took in order to be governor. But Winfield's campaign and the winning of the governorship is what I think American politics ought to be about.

Because he did it. We didn't have any massive organization, we were not all that well funded, particularly at first. We just had a great guy who combined a lot of basic American qualities, go out and sell himself to the people of his state and become their governor.

I think as campaigning becomes more expensive and more sophisticated it's almost a question of which firm you select to do your PR as to whether or not you are going to have a good candidacy. People consider now that Deloss Walker, you know, is a king maker. He handled the governor's campaign in Mississippi. But I don't believe too many political offices are for sale. I don't think the very wealthy can buy a position in American politics but it sure helps.

Winfield's whole candidacy I think uplifted everybody who knew anything about what a real sort of minor miracle it was in American politics. Because he was an obscure, relatively unknown Memphis dentist who went out and sort of on a shoestring, and some help from some friends that



knew the man became governor.

MR. MEIER:

Mr. McGehee, thank you very much for a very candid and very good interview. I appreciate this very much.

MR. MCGEHEE:

My pleasure, Mike.













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